THE WOMAN'S

DREADNOUGHT

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Our View on the Allies Answer to President Wilson

The Allies' reply to President Wilson should banish from the breast of every honest, thinking man and woman the last spark of enthusiasm for this War. We will not criticise the Note for its self-righteous assertions that the Allies bear no share of responsibility for the War. These assertions are unfortunately the rule in such documents, from whatever country they chance to emanate. The German Note was marred by the same defect, though it is true that in this Note the Allies have been very much more abusive to their opponents than were the Central Empires in their recent reply to President Wilson.

We prefer to concentrate attention upon the practical aspects of the Allied Note.

Firstly, and most reprehensibly, it is a point-blank refusal to enter into peace negotiations at the present time. The Allies, says the Note, "judge it impossible to-day" to secure the conditions they desire, but they give no proof of knowledge that it is impossible and still refuse to propose definite terms in order that the possibility or impossibility of a settlement may be demonstrated.

A further indication of the terms which the Allies will put forward when they feel they can enforce them are, however, now given. And these most clearly reveal the mercenary character of this War. The claim for the restoration of Serbia, Belgium, and Montenegro, and the evacuation of the invaded territories in France, Russia, and Rumania was to be expected. But if the Allied Governments are serious in the pretensions which follow we may look for a very long continuance of the War. The fact that these pretensions have now been disclosed, shows the supreme contempt towards the peoples which they are supposed to represent which animates the Allied Governments.

This appalling War, with its daily toll of massacre and hardship, is to continue, so the Note informs us, until the whole of Europe has been "re-organised." And all the territories "formerly torn from the Allies by force or against the wish of their inhabitants," have been restored. Anyone who considers the history of Europe and realises how constantly territory has changed hands, peoples have been conquered and passed by force from ruler to ruler, and how wave on wave of racial or dynastic conquest has swept to and fro, will realise the enormity of this suggestion. The provinces of Alsace-Lorraine are one of the simplest problems, and yet whilst it is true that Prussia rent these provinces from France in 1871, it is equally true they were at one time Austrian. The further we go East and South, the more closely are races intermingled as the result of successive migrations and conquests, so that it becomes well nigh impossible to decide which race predominates in the population. The difficulty of the position is clearly instanced by the rival estimates of race ascendancy in Macedonia presented by Bulgaria, Serbia, and Greece, which we take from the "Report of the International Commission to enquire into the Causes and Conduct of the Balkan Wars." They are as follows :—

	Bulgarian Statistics. Mr. Kantchev. 1900.	Servian Statistics. Mr. Gopcevic. 1899.	*Greek Statistics. Mr. Delyani. 1904.
Turks	499,204	231,400	634,017
Bulgarians ...	1,181,336	57,600	332,162
Greeks	228,702	201,140	652,795
Albanians ...	128,711	165,620	—
Wallachians ...	80,767	69,665	25,101
Jews	67,840	64,645	53,147
Gypsies	54,557	28,730	8,911
Servians ...	700	2,048,320	—
Miscellaneous ...	16,407	3,500	18,685
Total ...	2,258,224	2,870,620	1,724,818

* Kosovo vilayet omitted.

The Note says that the reorganisation of Europe must be based on respect for nationality and the liberation of certain peoples from foreign domination.

Is it just to contend that only those peoples subject to the domination of the Central Empires shall be freed? What of those who groan under the yoke of Russian slavery, than which there is no heavier? What of those subject to Great Britain, France, Italy, and Belgium?

The Note demands that the Ottoman Empire shall be turned out of Europe, "as decidedly foreign to Western civilisation," an appalling piece of effrontery on the part of a group of nations, which holds dominion over millions of Eastern people. Are not the Eastern people, the Indians and Egyptians, entitled to reply to the Westerners: "Get you gone from the East, your dominion is decidedly foreign to Eastern civilisation."

"Perhaps in strict justice that retort might be made," apologists for the Allied Governments will reply; "but Turkey is barbarous—what of the Armenian atrocities?" To such apologists we reply, read this as a sample of the behaviour of the King of "poor little Belgium" towards the natives of the Congo :—

"I am going to appear before the Judge for having killed 150 men, cut off 60 hands; for having crucified women and children; for having mutilated many men and hung their sexual remains on the village fence."—From "The Confessions of Lacroix," published in 1900 in the "Niewe Gazet" of Antwerp.

Mr. A. E. Scrivener, of the British Baptist Missionary Society, said, in referring to what he had seen in the Lake Leopold II. district :—

"The Bulgarian atrocities might be considered as mildness itself when compared with what has been done here."

There is an immense mass of similar testimony in regard to the Congo.

Have we a right to boast of Western civilisation after this? And remember that the treatment by the Russian Government of its native reformers has often been no less cruel. Moreover, the recent happenings in Ceylon leave us Britishers only too much reason to blush with shame.

WHO ARE THE BABY KILLERS?

100,000 Babies Inefficient.

From the *Satire*.

Of course, we desire the liberation of the various Christian peoples in the Balkans from the domination of the Turks in so far as it constitutes the over-lordship of a foreign Power. But as the Turks have occupied Constantinople since 1453, Turkish blood has undoubtedly mingled considerably with that of the original European races. The problem of the little Balkan nations is more complex than that of Ireland, but in certain essential characteristics it is the same. The strife between Protestant Ulster and Roman Catholic Ireland is not less bitter than that which for generations has been waged between the quarrelsome little Balkan States, who in their hatred of each other have often preferred the domination of one or other of the Great Powers to the triumph of a neighbouring Balkan State. The solution of the Balkan problem lies not in the substitution of Russian for Turkish dominion or of Italian control for that of Austria, but in the adoption of the programme set forth by the Balkan Socialists, who have declared in favour of an Independent Confederation of Balkan Republics with equal freedom for all races therein.

In the Bulgarian Parliamentary election of 1913, when war with Turkey was preparing, this claim, put forward by the Socialist Party and the Peasants' League, resulted in placing these parties in a majority, so clearly did the people realise the wisdom of their demands. The desire of the people was frustrated by the refusal of the King to call Parliament together until after a subsequent election, when, by the police violence, he had secured a majority for reaction. Nevertheless, this Bulgarian election shows us the way to health and soundness in the Balkans, not by massacring the manhood of the other nations, not by starving the civilian populations of the world, but by the agreement of the Governments of all the Powers to remove their domination over the smaller nations, and by the determination of the people of these small nations to secure their own freedom by internal action.

As has been pointed out, the policy of the British Government until recently has been to protect the Ottoman Empire and to maintain its integrity at all costs. Not only was the Crimean War fought with this object, but Great Britain has in the past consistently opposed the efforts of the little Christian nations to secure freedom from Turkish domination. Ogilvie Mitchell, in his useful handbook, "The Cretan, the Greek, and the Turk," written in 1897, when the Greek population of Creté was fighting to free itself from Turkey, and re-unite itself to Greece, complained bitterly of the support which the British Government was then according to Turkey. He says :—

"Here is one reason for the preservation of the 'Integrity of the Turkish Empire'—a reason of pounds, shillings and pence. The wealthy gamblers who have financed the Turk are hoping against hope that in some unforeseen way they may yet pay the heavy interest which they demand on the loans, and as these gamblers are behind the Governments which are supposed to have lent the money, the Concert of Europe is only the chorus of the usurer."

The reason observed by Ogilvie Mitchell for British support of Turkey is the self-same reason which has determined British support of Russia to-day. British financiers have invested their money in Russia. The same is true of the French financiers to paraphrase our author we must say "The virtuous indignation of the Allies is only the chorus of the usurer." To-day it is the Germans who have made friends with the Sultan of Turkey, therefore to insure that Allied capitalists and traders shall make all that there is to be made out of the Balkans, Turkey must be turned out and to this end the massacre of the innocents throughout the length and breadth of Europe must continue. E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

CHILD WELFARE

Much is being written about the "bold and energetic measures" contemplated at the Local Government Board. Lord Rhondda, who is now President, realises the necessity for dealing with child welfare and venereal diseases. The idea of establishing crèches in every part of the country, where children may be cared for whilst the mothers are at work, is specially mentioned.

It is an appalling thing that women should be driven out to work by high prices. The Government is beginning to work at the wrong end by starting charitable institutions instead of bringing down food prices. The proposed Local Government grants do not appear to be distributed with necessary disinterestedness, for, while the Duchess of Marlborough was granted £5,000 for antenatal clinics, the Local Government Board officials have stated that, though their inspectors report well of the W.S.F. Clinics, their present intention is not to give grants to these institutions this year.

There is a great deal of talk about giving meals to mothers and children under five years. Whilst protesting that the Government ought to render this unnecessary, the W.S.F. clinics have been giving free milk and meals since the outbreak of the War. It will be a scandal if grants are denied them for this purpose when they are being given to other institutions for this work.

ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS INDUSTRIAL CONSCRIPTION

In place of the Man-Power Board, the Department of National Service will now deal with the labour question. The duties will be :

"To determine all questions arising between Government Departments relating to the allocation or economic utilisation of man-power for the purpose of the successful prosecution of the War, and in order to give effect to its determination, to direct the Government Departments concerned to create the machinery necessary to co-ordinate their activities in regard to the distribution or utilisation of men and women."

* * * *

A further step on the path towards Industrial Conscription is made in the following War Office announcement :—

"Statement No. I. (corresponding to the list previously required), giving particulars of male employees between 18 and 42 who have been employed for a week or more.

"Statement No. II. of the total numbers of female employees of any age who have been employed for a week or more and of male employees so employed who are not within the ages of 18 to 42. This is a new requirement.

"Statement No. III. of male employees between the ages of 18 and 42 who have been employed during the preceding month for less than a week (whether still employed or not). This corresponds to the former record of casual employees."

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

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Vol. III. No. 43 Sat., January 20th, 1917.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

THE ELECTORAL REFORM CONFERENCE

Twice during the past week the "Daily Chronicle" has announced that the Electoral Reform Conference has decided to advise a number of changes, but to make no recommendation whatsoever on the question of women's enfranchisement. The proposals in regard to the men's franchise which the "Chronicle" states to have been agreed upon are highly unsatisfactory.

The University franchise, which is open only to the privileged few, is to be extended.

Plural voting is to be retained, or so the "Chronicle" announces.

The ownership franchise, another prerogative of the rich, is not referred to.

It is said that "soldiers and sailors on active service are to retain their right to vote in spite of the loss of their household qualification." Is this to apply only to the household franchise? The larger proportion of soldiers are unmarried, and therefore are likely to have been able to qualify under the lodger franchise only. Are the unmarried soldiers in lodgings to lose their votes? Moreover, is this protection to be accorded only to the soldier and sailor? Is the munition worker to be left out? Is this old standing grievance, which applies to every worker who in peace time loses his work and is obliged to migrate elsewhere to procure employment, to be retained when the franchise has been recast? The recommendations of the Committee are pettifogging indeed!

The lodger franchise, which is open only to those who can afford to pay more than the statutory 3s. 10d. per week for an unfurnished room is presumably to remain as it is.

Mr. Glanville stated in the House of Commons on November 21st and 30th, 1916, that according to the census return for 1911, the adult male population of the Metropolitan Borough of Bermondsey was 34,249, whilst the number of Parliamentary electors in the same area was 17,028. Seven hundred of the electors were non-residents, and therefore not included in the census, so that only 16,328 of the men residents were electors, whilst 17,921, or 52 per cent., were disfranchised because they lived in lodgings rented at less than the statutory 3s. 10d. per week. He added that, according to the 1911 census, the adult male population of the City of London was 7,017, whilst the number of Parliamentary electors was 30,500. Thus 23,483 Parliamentary voters in the City were non-residents, and in all probability they voted also for the constituency in which they lived.

These constituencies, Bermondsey, the home of the poor, on the one hand, and the City of London, the money-making ground of the rich, on the other, explain how it is that whilst some men have many votes, our present out-of-date franchise system enfranchises but one-third of the adult men of the nation, as is shown by the following table:—

DIVISION	Electors for Counties			Electors for Boroughs			University Electors	Total Electors (1915)	Population, July, 1914
	Owners	Occupiers	Lodgers	Occupiers	Lodgers	Freemen, Free-holders, &c.			
England & Wales ...	568326	3263643	141859	2548164	205751	221908	213236	7712647	37302983
Scotland —	65078	391141	47473	285878	39938	23370	26010	884909	4747167
Ireland ...	10686	558575	5750	115000	3885	3351	4138	701475	4381368
Gr'nd Total	644110	4213359	195182	2949132	249574	249129	243374	9298031	46431548

If the "Chronicle's" forecast of the Committee's recommendations is correct, it appears that whilst some tinkering is suggested the worst features of the present system are to be retained.

But grossly unjust as these features are in their application to men, the grievances of the men electors under the present system pale into insignificance as compared with the supreme injustice, which debars from the franchise every woman in the country.

THE HOUSE SHOULD REJECT THE REPORT EN BLOC.

If it be true that the Speaker's Conference has failed to come to any decision in regard to women, the Government and Parliament as a whole must undertake responsibility for the task which the Electoral Conference has shirked. The House should give the Government a lead by rejecting the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference *en bloc*, and demanding that a simple manhood and womanhood suffrage Bill should be introduced, coupled with provisions for continuous registration and for enabling the voter to record his or her vote for the home constituency when obliged to be absent from it.

The New Zealand franchise contains these advantages. They should be introduced into our own franchise system. We urge the Members of Parliament who profess democratic principles, and those who are believers in the enfranchisement of women, to press for Adult Suffrage. Let them show vigorous determination to secure justice!

Neither the Prime Minister nor the leader of the Opposition can escape responsibility in this matter: the utterances of both have deeply committed them to adult manhood and womanhood suffrage.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

On June 20th, 1914, Mr. Asquith, in replying to a deputation of East London women, organised by the W.S.F., said:—

"The substance of the case you have presented to me today comes to this: that the economic conditions under which women labour in a community like, for instance, the East End of London, are such that either in the way of legislation, or perhaps in the way of administration, we cannot get substantial and intelligent reform unless women themselves have a voice in choosing representatives for Parliament . . . and you have each of you given me special illustrations drawn from your own experience, or from the experience of your leaders, to show that that is not a mere rhetorical statement, but does correspond to the actual facts of East End life. . . . If the change has to come, we must face it boldly, and make it thoroughgoing and democratic in its basis."

On August 14th, 1916, in the House of Commons, Mr. Asquith said:—

"The moment you begin a general enfranchisement on these lines of State service you are brought face to face with another most formidable proposition. What are you going to do with the women? I have received a great many representations from those who are authorised to speak for them, and I am bound to say they presented to me not only a reasonable, but I think from their point of view an unanswerable case. They say they are perfectly content, if we do not change the qualification of the franchise, to abide by the existing state of things, but that if we are going to bring in a new class of electors, on whatever ground of State service, they point out—and we cannot possibly deny their claim—that during this War the women of this country have rendered as effective service in the prosecution of the War as any other class of the community. . . .

"They are doing the work which the men who are fighting had to perform before, they have taken their places, they are the servants of the State, and they have aided, in the most effective way, in the prosecution of the War. What is more, and this is a point which makes a special appeal to me, they say when the War comes to an end, and when these abnormal, and, of course, to a certain extent transient, conditions have to be revised, when the process of industrial reconstruction has to be set on foot, have not the women a special claim to be heard on the many questions which will arise directly affecting their interests, and possibly meaning for them large displacements of labour? I cannot think that the House will deny that, and I say quite frankly that I cannot deny that claim."

As Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Asquith holds a place of responsibility second only to that which devolves upon the Government. It is clearly his duty to safeguard the interests of those whom the Government may appear to neglect. He has said that he cannot deny the women's claim; he has professed belief in adult suffrage. Let him urge these twin causes upon the Government now, and by taking a bold personal stand secure for them the support of the Liberal Party. Liberal Suffragists in the past have often said that loyalty to Mr. Asquith has prevented them from pressing for woman's suffrage as they would otherwise have done. Now that his hostility to the cause of women has vanished, let him show the determination as a supporter which he displayed towards us as an opponent!

Mr. Lloyd George has even more definitely committed himself to a democratic franchise for both men and women. Throughout the militant movement he made the special plea that he of all others should be exempt from the heckling to which the Suffragettes subjected the members of the Government on the ground that he was *the* friend of woman suffrage.

In 1908 he wrote to the executive of the Women's Liberal Federation offering to speak for them on women suffrage in the Albert Hall on December 5th, and then said that he "was all for woman suffrage," and there promised his support for the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the Reform Bill which Mr. Asquith had promised to introduce. According to his own statement he torpedoed the Conciliation Bill on the ground that it would enfranchise some women and not all. In February, 1913, the Thursday before the Woman Suffrage Amendments to the Reform Bill were to come up, Mr. Lloyd George received a deputation of working women, and again promised his support to a suffrage amendment, indicating that the one standing in the name of Sir Edward Grey was the one which appeared to him most practical.

In the summer of 1914, shortly before the outbreak of war, he promised that if militancy would cease he would bring all his influence to bear to secure woman suffrage, and would campaign for it throughout the country in order that it should be carried into law in the following session of Parliament. He said that unless militancy were stopped, the task of converting the party machine to the issue would be too great for him; but that if militancy would cease he would at once throw himself into the work, and would bind himself to it by written guarantees. Militancy has ceased, Mr. Lloyd George no longer occupies a subordinate position in the Ministry; he is no longer obliged to contend against a Prime Minister hostile to the cause of women. He is himself Prime Minister. What will he do to show that his promises were things of worth and substance, made by an honourable man? Some difficulties may face Mr. Lloyd George in the accomplishment of his task, but he well knows how to surmount them. Has he the will to do so?

The Workers' Suffrage Federation has written to ask him to receive a deputation from this organisation either separately or in conjunction with other organisations, in order that we may have an opportunity of laying our views before him and of hearing what he is prepared to do.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

OUR LETTER TO THE CONFERENCE

16th January, 1917.

Walter J. Jerred, Esq.,
Secretary of Electoral Reform Conference,
Local Government Board,
Whitehall, S.W.

Sir,—I write on behalf of the Workers' Suffrage Federation to urge upon you once more the view that there can be no satisfactory or permanent settlement of the franchise question short of complete adult suffrage for both men and women.

The Press forecasts of the resolutions arrived at by your Conference appear to indicate, though we hope most erroneously, that the recommendations of the Electoral Reform Conference fall short of Adult Suffrage and do not deal with the enfranchisement of women.

I am instructed to point out that disregard of the women's claim at this juncture would be regarded by women and also by men suffragists as peculiarly obnoxious in view of War conditions, and would inevitably lead to very marked and serious manifestations of discontent.

We therefore urge that should there be any truth in the rumours that the Conference had not arrived at any decision on the question of women's enfranchisement, the sittings of the Conference shall be further extended in order that this important question may be dealt with as it deserves, in view of the fact that women and men are compelled to obey the laws which are made by Parliament, and should, therefore, be entitled to a voice in the election of Parliament.—Faithfully yours,

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.,
16th January, 1917.

A similar letter has been written by the London Labour Council for Adult Suffrage.

Get the Adult Suffrage Resolution passed:

This meeting calls on the Government to introduce, not a Registration Bill, but a Franchise Bill to give a vote to every woman and man over 21.

Affiliation fee 2s. 6d. to London Labour Council for Adult Suffrage, which is affiliated to National Council for Adult Suffrage.

MR. HENDERSON'S VIEWS

Miss Dorothy Evans informs us that at a meeting addressed by the Right Hon. Arthur Henderson, at Croydon, on January 15th, a naval officer sent up to the platform a request that Mr. Henderson would state the intentions of the Government in regard to women's suffrage. The request was ignored, so the officer put his question verbally at the close of the speech. After some delay Mr. Henderson rose and said:—

"He could only tell his questioners that after peace was concluded, when the Government was less fully occupied, they intended to consider the matter of women's enfranchisement."

Such replies will not do. Perhaps Mr. Henderson was unprepared for the question. We advise Mr. Henderson to take the matter to his colleagues and secure that it shall be carefully considered in order that a satisfactory reply may be given when the question is next put.

All Suffragists should at this point be questioning Members of Parliament and Cabinet Ministers as to their intentions.

* * * *

Women may soon vote in Mexico. At the Mexican constitutional convention at Queretaro on December 12th, Mrs. Hermila Galindo presented a scheme to enfranchise the women, and the "Woman's Journal" reports that the scheme will probably have the support of General Garranza, who is said to desire complete adult suffrage.

PROHIBITION AND THE WAR: By P. J. Dollan

The great question at present for many Scottish people is whether the liquor trade will be nationalised or prohibited. On both sides there are ranged powerful forces, and the controversy for or against prohibition has given the latter solution of the drink problem a prominence which even its dearest friends never imagined it would attain. This lifting of prohibition from comparative obscurity to the front place in the limelight of publicity is due to the fact that the wealthy parvenus and employers have made the "discovery" that the excessive consumption of alcohol by the workers is hindering the successful prosecution of the War! Hence they have joined hands with the temperance extremists and are demanding prohibition, so that the prosecution of the War may be made more effective! The employers have gone so far as to base their claim for prohibition on the allegation that workers, by their drunken habits, are hindering production.

Naturally, the organised workers have resented the slander thrown at them by the employers, and have pointed out that the real hindrance to production is profiteering, and they demand its abolition. In the agitation for prohibition the workers see an attempt being made by the employers to fasten their own shortcomings on to the shoulders of the common people. Apparently the employers are about to be discovered as having made plunder out of the War needs of the nation, and hope to forestall the discovery by blaming the intemperance of the workers as the cause of the muddle which has arisen because of the greed of profiteers. In the spring of 1915 they made a similar attempt, and an obliging Government issued a lying White Paper containing concoctions as to how work was impeded because of the alleged fondness of the people for alcohol! That attempt fell flat, and so will the present campaign if the workers stand firm.

If the liquor trade stands in the way of an efficient food supply for the people it should be prohibited with out further ado. Food before booze is a demand which all Socialists will support with fervour. But it has not been shown by any competent person that the liquor trade is responsible for the scarcity of food or the blunders in production, and therefore the argument on that score is ineffective. The real cause of food shortage is the War, and those who want to receive an abundance of food should demand the prohibition of the War. It is the War and not the liquor trade that has ruined fields and harvests; that has caused land to go out of cultivation by the conscription of labour and materials; that has sunk ships and their cargoes of nourishing supplies; that has brought Humanity face to face with starvation. All that should be common knowledge; yet some want prohibition, hoping it will make the prosecution of the War more effective; because it will make the War more comfortable for people who might want Peace owing to the danger to their stomachs involved in famine.

War is the greatest evil known to mankind, and does more social harm in a week than the liquor trade does in a century. If the wealthy snobs and employers, who in a patriotic fever have adopted prohibition as a fad, were really anxious to benefit the common people they would join with us in demanding the abolition of the War. The present War kills or maims 20,000 men on an average every week. Surely that is an evil which ought to have the opposition of the people who want to "save the workers from the misery caused by drink." The great majority of the recent converts to prohibition are insensible to the need for Peace: they want prohibition because they imagine a nation of teetotallers will be able to destroy the enemy more effectively than a nation which tolerates liquor. Quite a Christian ideal!

The "war" prohibitionists seem to forget that the damage inflicted on social life by the over-indulgence in alcohol is as nothing compared to the damage done by the unlimited use of high explosives. In warfare, in the manifestation of which alcohol plays a big part. It was stated the other day that five-sixths of the alcohol now distilled in Scotland is used for the manufacture of explosives, and in that form will cause tremendous havoc. Are the "war" prohibitionists in favour of prohibition of all alcohol, or only that portion which is consumed by the workers? If they are sincere in their demand for prohibition because alcohol is an evil, then they should insist on its complete prohibition. For them alcohol embodied in a powerful shell should not be any more palatable than alcohol contained in a glass or bottle. If alcohol in liquid form is an evil, it doesn't become a virtue when an ingredient in high explosives.

Prohibition may be good reform in itself if the people wanted it. So far organised Labour in Scotland has not shown any desire for it, but has pinned its faith in State ownership of the liquor trade as the fairest pathway to temperance reform. Once the trade is under the public control the people can do with it what they like: they can mend it or end it. When it is no longer profitable for private persons to deal in liquor there will be a great accession to the ranks of temperance. The main cause of drunkenness is profiteering and the evils arising therefrom. There will be no drunkards in Utopia.

While there are slums, some kind of reformed public house will be necessary to permit of social intercourse among those who cannot meet their friends in clubs or in private mansions.

Meantime, Scottish Labour is opposing prohibition, and not because it is the friend of the publican. Organised Labour has always wanted to make the publican the host of a common club instead of a private drinking den. The trade unions regard the clamour to enforce prohibition as another attempt to enforce legislation against the workers and without their consent. Prohibition is to be thrust upon the workers in the same way as the Munitions Act, Defence of the Realm Act and Regulations, and Military Service Acts were thrust upon them—from above. In the opinion of the Scottish workers the remedy for the drink problem is to make the liquor trade the business of the people, who, with the aid and operation of local veto, can regulate it to suit themselves. That is the democratic solution.

"SATIRE"

Our cartoon this week is from the new rebel picture paper, "Satire," from which we also take the following note:—

"Sylvia Pankhurst, of the "Woman's Dreadnought," and Pratt, Watson and Williams, of the "Trade Unionist," have been severely sat upon lately in London (Prussia). The latter paper was suppressed for printing in plain, simple language some pen portraits of the naked truth. How obscene! As to Miss Sylvia, she was unpatriotic enough to harangue a crowd concerning the peace proposals. She should know that woman's place is the home. Unless, of course, she goes munitioneering."

"Satire," monthly penny paper, published at 127 Ossulston Street, London, N.W.

SEPARATION ALLOWANCES

To meet the increased cost of living, the Government proposes the following scale of separation allowances, which does not affect the 12s. 6d. allowed to a wife without children, but gives a graduated increase where there are children, as follows; An extra 2s. to a wife with one child, 3s. 6d. extra for two children, 5s. for three, 6s. for four, and an extra 3s. for each additional child. These increases, it is estimated, will cost the State well over £10,000,000.

This is a step in the right direction, but unfortunately it does not represent the increase in the cost of living.

* * * *

Get the Peace Negotiations Resolution passed:

The undersigned urge His Majesty's Government to seek the earliest opportunity of promoting negotiations with the object of securing a just and lasting Peace.

AN APPEAL TO LLOYD GEORGE

FROM THE SUBJECT RACES LEAGUE OF RUSSIA.

On the 21st December the following telegraphic appeal was sent from Berne to the English Premier, Lloyd George:—

Sir,—In your speech of yesterday you proclaimed to the world that Great Britain is fighting for complete restitution, full reparation and effectual guarantees against damage inflicted by the enemy on small nationalities. On behalf of many suffering millions I now beg you not to be partial in your self-sacrificing humanity, but to extend it to nationalities that have endured even greater wrong. I mean the subject races of Russia.

For centuries they have been ill-treated and robbed of their rights, and now during this War the horror of the crimes committed against them has not been equalled in the history of the world: the outrages and violation of rights in Finland, the spoliation and evacuation of the Baltic provinces, Lithuania, Poland and Volhynia, the violation of the national institutions of the Ukraine, the wrongs done to Galicia, the massacre of thousands of Georgians and Mohammedans, and the terrible persecution and annihilation of hundreds of thousands of Jews. Throughout these countries towns and villages have been burnt to the ground, thousands of inhabitants, young and old, have been massacred and the survivors dragged off into slavery.

Such misdeeds are far more outrageous than those of which you accuse your opponents, for they have not been perpetrated by enemies, against whom those attacked have the right and power to defend themselves, but have been committed by the Russian Government itself against its own subjects—subjects who, incredible though it may seem, have bravely and obediently shed their blood, and will continue to do so, for their oppressor, Russia.

Convinced as I am, Sir, of your desire to be just, I take the liberty to ask how you propose to act in the face of such facts. Do you, too, intend to disregard them as though they had never been brought to your notice? Will you be satisfied, as recently M. Sonnino was, to testify in words alone to your respect for the principle of nationality, for human rights and humanity, for justice and civilisation? Will you still in friendship clasp the hand that worked these ills?

Baron FREDERIC ROPP, General Secretary,
The Subject Races League of Russia.

* * * *

The miners' lodges of Northumberland have rejected by 316 votes to 156 a peace resolution requesting the executive committee of the Miners' Federation to draft proposals calculated to secure an end of the present European War on honourable terms.

A PACIFIST CANDIDATE

Mr. Albert Taylor, the Secretary of the Rossendale Shoe and Slipper Operatives' Union, has been adopted as pacifist Parliamentary candidate. He is also a conscientious objector and member of the B.S.P.

We wish him luck, and congratulate the people of Rossendale on their choice.

NOTES FROM THE MIDLANDS

By "Omnifrage"

It is better to be a solicitor than rich or anything else. This is the inspiring lesson to be learned from the sitting of the Sheffield Local Tribunal in December last. In the second chamber, where Mr. Alderman Cattell presided, it was the solicitors' night out. It is interesting, having regard to the short shrift that is shown less privileged appellants, to see how these favoured ones of the earth fared. The first legal luminosity to glow before a benignant court was Mr. W. I. Mitchell, solicitor, aged 30, married and passed for general service. He was given until June 30th. The next duo were clerks of Messrs. Rodgers and Co. The first of these, Mr. J. P. King is aged 32, married, has one child, and was passed for garrison duty abroad, a category which military representatives are in the habit of telling their opponents, is almost as important as general service. Mr. King was given to June 30th. Next came Mr. F. C. Lambert, aged 32, married with two children, passed for general service. He was given till June 30th. Mr. Herbert Bedford, solicitor, aged 37, married, with two children, and passed for C3, was given conditional exemption. Messrs. Arthur Neal and Co. continued this illustrious procession, presenting two clerks. Mr. Walter Bryars, 32, married, with two children, and passed for garrison duty abroad, was given till March 31st. Mr. W. T. Mower, aged 30, married, passed for the same category as his colleague, was given a similar period. Mr. J. E. Wing appealed for Mr. A. B. Thorneloe, aged 27, married, and passed for general service. He was given till March 31st, final. Messrs. Chambers and Sons were given until March 31st for Mr. H. Popplewell, a married man, aged 31, with two children, and passed for general service. Messrs. G. J. Simpson and Sons applied for Mr. Grafton, aged 38, married, with five children and passed for home service. He was very properly given conditional exemption.

Now we come to a pretty quartette of practising solicitors. Mr. Sam Roberts, Junr., aged 34, married, with two children and passed for B2, was given conditional exemption. Mr. Ernest Wilson, aged 37, married, with one child, and passed for general service, was given until June 30th. Mr. Harold W. Jackson, aged 33, and married, passed for home service, was given until June 30th. Mr. Willis L. Oxley, aged 39 and married, with one child, passed for labour units abroad, was given until June 30th. A little interlude is provided by Messrs. Broomhead and Co., who appealed for Mr. William Slack, aged 39, married, with two children, passed for general service, who was given until June 30th. The rear of the company is brought up by two solicitors. Mr. Sam U. Blackburn, aged 39, married, and passed for labour abroad, was given conditional exemption. Mr. W. A. Lambert, aged 34, married, with one child, and passed for home service, was given until June 30th.

Again, I say it is luck, above all else, to be born a solicitor or to grow up into one. But let me introduce you more intimately to the several figures appearing in this pretty little comedy. Of the total 16 appeals not one was disallowed. Of the six men passed for general service, a class of which it is constantly shouted the Army is in dire need, not one is to be called to the Colours under three months, while two have until June 30th. Then it is probable that five will get further periods for the word "final" is attached to only one of these cases. Six men were passed for service abroad. Of these, two were given conditional exemption, and one six months. Of the goodly company of practising solicitors Mr. W. I. Mitchell, a general service man, has been given conditional exemption. Mr. Sam Roberts, Junr., is a member of the Sheffield City Council, and passed for service abroad; Mr. W. A. Lambert is also a councillor and, I believe, a party Whip. Mr. Arthur Neal, who appealed for two of his clerks, is also a member of the City Council, Chairman of many Committees and a political leader of first importance.

Alderman Cattell, the Chairman of the Court, is, of course, also a member of the Council.

Now I do not blame any of the appellants for appearing before the Tribunal. I suppose the advent of the Tribunals has made the question of exemption largely one of *sauve qui peut*. Solicitors have as much patriotism as anyone else, these days.

But there are one or two absorbingly interesting incidents relative to the Sheffield "rejoicing of the Law." It was stated that the Tribunal had resolved to adopt the recommendation of the Law Society in granting these exemptions. There, my friends, you have an example of what a first-class, gilt-edged trade union can do! It can sit in judgment, examine, cross-examine, pass sentence, and generally let down as lightly as possible its *own* members arraigned before its impartial and unbiassed self!

At the same time, I am constrained to remark, that the Tribunal is not bound to accept the recommendation, even of so august a body as the Law Society. Unless, of course, it wants to. In other cases concerning other Unions, the Tribunal has not been in so accommodating a frame of mind.

Another curious feature of this curious evening was the absence of the military representative during the hearing of these cases. He was present before they came on and after they had been heard. Of course, coincident explains a good deal. It wouldn't explain this. More especially as the military representative on duty in that court was Captain Caporn, who, in less exacting times is plain Mr. Caporn, Barrister-at-Law. Blessed is he who is learned in the Law. I admit that the gallant and learned Captain was placed in an invidious position. He has told so many appellants that greengrocery, pork butchering, sweet selling, insurance canvassing, and a hundred other occupations were not helping us to win the War, that, from habit, if from nothing else, he would have had to tell his learned brothers the same tale concerning their own profession. It would, I freely admit, have been a disagreeable business. And the War won't last for ever. All the same, things could have been a little better arranged.

It was true that another officer remained, but Captain Caporn is avowedly the trump card of the Army in Sheffield. And the officer who remained failed to put a single question, make one observation, or suggest any opposition to the decision of the Tribunal. It didn't seem like cricket to some of the less fortunate appellants. And it wasn't cricket. But thrice blessed are the lawyers.

Meanwhile, Mr. W. C. Anderson, if this catches his eye, might ask a few pertinent questions in Parliament!

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LONDON MEETINGS.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19th.
Market behind Army and Navy Stores, 12 (noon), Mrs. Walker.
Lewisham Market Place, 2 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 20th.
Grundy Street, 11 a.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Price.
Bonner Street, Green Street, 2 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Deptford Broadway, 1 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Acton Market Place, Joint Meeting with N.-C.F., 3 p.m., Miss Price.
Chandos Hall, 3.30 p.m., At Home.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker.
West Green Corner, Tottenham, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
The Grove, Stratford, Joint Meeting with N.C.C.L., 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Cressall.
Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Peace Meeting.
Bow Women's Hall, 6 p.m., Lecture and Discussion.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23rd.
"Salmon and Ball," 11 a.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Price.
Hague Street, Bethnal Green, 1 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Price.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24th.
Hoxton, 12 (noon), Mrs. Boyce.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley, 2 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25th.
Piggott Street, Poplar, 12 (noon), Mrs. Boyce.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26th.
Market behind Army and Navy Stores, 12 (noon), Mrs. Boyce.
Lewisham Market Place, 2 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 27th.
Bonner Street, Green Street, 11 a.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Price.
Acton Market Place, Joint Meeting with N.C.C.L., 3 p.m., Miss Price.
Chandos Hall, 3.30 p.m., At Home.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28th.
Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Peace Meeting.
Bow Women's Hall, 6 p.m., Concert.

PEACE MEETING

Victoria Park, To-Morrow

SUNDAY, 3 p.m.

Speakers: Mrs. BOYCE, Mrs. COLE, Mrs. DRAKE, and Others.

Mrs. Crosland Taylor has kindly given £1 for Peace Banner, and Mr. Herbert Cole will design one for our coming Peace Demonstration. Who else will make some?

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ADULT SUFFRAGE

Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, London, Saturday, February 10th, at 3 p.m. (doors open, 2.30). TO DEMAND VOTES FOR ALL. Speakers: The Right Hon. Sir John Simon, M.P., Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P., Miss Mary Macarthur, Councillor Margaret Ashton and Mrs. Barton. Chair: The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Lincoln.

Tickets (Reserved), 2s. 6d., 1s., and 3d. (tax included). Apply to the Secretary, National Council for Adult Suffrage, 27 Chancery Lane, London, W.C.; or to the Secretary, Women's Co-operative Guild, 28 Church Row, Hampstead, London, N.W.; the Secretary, Workers' Suffrage Federation, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.; the Secretary, National Women's Labour League, 1 Victoria Street, S.W.; the Secretary, Women's International League, 12 Little College Street, Westminster, S.W.

Clippings of material of all kinds (must measure at least 5 by 6 inches) can be used in our Toy Factory at 45 Norman Road, Bow, E., and will be most gratefully received if friends will kindly send them.

W.S.F. EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Most interesting lectures have been arranged for the ensuing season, and members and friends are asked to make these fixtures known amongst their friends. The Chandos Hall At Homes are held on Saturday afternoons, lectures and concerts at the Bow Women's Hall on Sunday evenings, and the lectures at Poplar Women's Hall, 20 Railway Street, on Wednesday evenings.

Admission free. All are welcome!

CHANDOS HALL "AT HOME," 21a Maiden Lane (off Bedford Street, Strand).—To-day, Saturday, 3.30 p.m.; Miss Anna Martin, "The Mothers' Grievance"; Mr. T. S. Attlee (B.S.P.), "Equality." Chair, Mrs. Drake.

Next Saturday, January 27th, 3.30 p.m., the speakers will be: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, on "The Present Outlook"; Mr. E. L. Minsky, on "The Position of Jews in Russia and the Right of Asylum." Chair, Mrs. Bouvier.

Bow Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, tomorrow, Sunday, at 6 p.m., lecture on "England in 1815" (the Problem of Peace then), Miss M. W. Buer. Chair, Mrs. Bouvier. On Sunday, January 28th, at 6 p.m., a concert will be given by the People's Concert Society.

Poplar Women's Hall, 20 Railway Street, Wednesday, January 24th, 8.15 p.m., Mr. John Scurr will lecture.

EAST LONDON PEACE CONFERENCE

The East London Peace Conference summoned by the Workers' Suffrage Federation, which was held at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, on Sunday, the 14th, was attended by 42 delegates and a large number of visitors, including Mr. Ivor Thomas, of Britton Ferry, Miss Connie Ellis and Mr. Wilson, of Durham, and Mr. McDougall, from Glasgow.

Unfortunately, Dr. Salter, who was to have addressed the gathering, and the Revd. Herbert Dunnico were both ill, whilst Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, the third speaker, was also unwell, and only came in for a short time towards the close of the proceedings. Mr. Edgar Lansbury, however, presided as had been arranged, and Mr. Ammon, I.L.P., came in Dr. Salter's place and gave an able summary of the present situation, declaring that the Allied Note had played into the hands of the pacifists.

The following resolutions were adopted:—

(1) That this Conference resolves to organise a vigorous Peace Campaign.—Carried unanimously.
(2) That this Campaign shall culminate in a public meeting with procession to Hyde Park or some other public place decided upon by the committee.
(3) That a committee shall be elected at this Conference to carry out the above resolutions.—Agreed.

The following were elected as a committee to carry the resolutions into effect:—

Mr. David Coombs, Tottenham N. C.F.
Miss Riley, City of London I.L.P.
Miss Pankhurst, W.S.F.
Dr. Salter, Bermondsey I.L.P.
Mr. Hoggins, Dulwich I.L.P.
Mr. H. J. Lane, Forest Gate N. C.F.
Mr. Evans, London Division N.-C.F.
Mr. Ammon, Bermondsey I.L.P.
Mr. Attlee, Poplar N.-C.F.
Mrs. Cole, Stop-the-War.
Mrs. Coates (Zelda Kahn), Hackney B.S.P.

A PLEA FOR WOMEN LAWYERS

At the annual general meeting of the Bar, in the Inner Temple Hall, Mr. Holford Knight has given notice of the following resolution:—"That the General Council of the Bar do consider and report upon the desirability of making provision for the admission of duly qualified women to the profession."

We wish him success!

WHAT'S ON

West Green Corner, Tottenham, Sunday, 21st, 11.30, Peace meeting.

Victoria Park, to-morrow, Sunday, 3 p.m., W.S.F. Peace meeting.

Women's Freedom League, Caxton Hall, Wednesday, January 24th, 3 p.m., Mr. Lansbury and Mrs. Mustard.

Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart Street, Bloomsbury, January 23rd, 8 p.m., lecture by Miss Margaret Hodge.

All Societies are cordially invited to send in notices of forthcoming events for our "What's On" column, which starts this week. Nominal fee, 1d. per word.

CHANDOS HALL

Miss S. Pankhurst was absent from the Chandos Hall on Saturday, 13th January, owing to ill-health. Her place was taken by Mrs. Bouvier.

Mr. Shapurji-Saklatvala, who gave a very interesting lecture on "A Federated Empire and India," dwelt chiefly upon the outlook of advanced thinkers in England towards those in distant countries. He said there should be no nationality in struggles for liberty; but most Internationalists seldom included the coloured races in their programme. People in England were wilfully ignorant of and indifferent towards Indian problems. The English outrages in Dublin provoked a storm of indignation in England, but English outrages in India were ignored.

He mentioned the Council of Nations, at which India is to be represented by Mr. Chamberlain, a man who knew nothing of the country, and had never even taken the trouble to go there. Several questions were asked concerning Indian politics and literature, and a vote of thanks was passed to the lecturer for his brilliant address.

Report of Bow Baths Dance Next Week

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

GENERAL FUND.—Misses Gliksten (monthly), £1; extra Donation, £2 10s.; W. J. Woods, Esq., £2; Miss Miriam Prelooker (aged 10), 10s. 6d.; Miss Eleanor Prelooker (aged 2), 10s. 6d.; P. W. Summers, Esq. (Peace Conference), 5s.; Mrs. O'Connell, 2s.; Mrs. Savoy, 1s. 6d.; Miss Eagles (Peace Campaign), 1s. 6d.; Mrs. Conway, 1s. COLLECTIONS: Chandos Hall, 11s. 0½d.; Profit on Tea, 1s. 10d.; Mrs. Bouvier (two), 5s.; Green Street, 1s. 7½d.

DREADNOUGHT FUND.—Miss Florence Moser, £2; Alfred Ogden, Esq., £1 1s.; Rev. C. Warlow, £1; Mrs. Minturn Scott, 10s.; Miss A. Thomas, 5s.; Mrs. Patterson, 5s.; Miss Helen Roxburgh, 5s.; Miss Christine Molloy, 3s.; Mrs. Thomas, 2s.; J. de Gruyter, Esq., 1s.

LIBEL ACTION DEFENCE FUND.—Reginald Pott, Esq., £3; Miss Ada Wright, £1; Mr. and Mrs. Plant, 10s.; Miss Forbes Robertson, 2s.

MRS. WALKER'S FINE.—Anon, £2.

MISS PANKHURST'S FINE.—Mrs. Scurr, £2.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—The Jolly Boys Concert Party, per Mr. F. Allen (Mothers' Arms), £7; Misses Mann (monthly), £1; Mrs. Walpole, per Miss Newcomb, £1; Mrs. Fox, 17s. 6d.; Nurse Hebbes (weekly), 12s.; Mrs. Hyde, 10s.; Mrs. Fred Parsons, 10s.; Mrs. Burroughs, 10s.; Mrs. Middleton, 10s.; Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly), 5s.; per Nurse Clarke, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Yeoman, 2s. John Crowley, Esq., 1s. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Tool Room, £1 6s. 11½d.; Mrs. Richmond, £1; Miss Fox, 16s.; Misses E. Lagsding and L. Barker (Green's Yard), 11s. 1d.; Nancy and Sheila Burton, 10s.; Mrs. Pattenden, 6s. 6d.; Misses K. Lagsding and T. Barker (Cubitt Town), 4s. 6d.; Albert Knierien (box), 3d.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Mrs. Sinclair, Claire Oldham, Anon, Mrs. Martin Holland, Anon.

GROCERIES.—Hampstead National Food Fund.

Members and Friends who are collecting in "Dreadnought" boxes are asked to send in collections before the end of January.

W.S.F. Draw Competition on March 24th, 1917, in aid of the W.S.F., "Dreadnought," and Propaganda Fund. Prizes: 1st, Gentleman's Gold Watch; 2nd an Alarm Clock; 3rd, Lady's or Gentleman's Umbrella; 4th, Bound Volume of "The Woman's Dreadnought." Entrance, 2d. Draw Secretary; Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road, Tidal Basin.

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WANTED, Speaking Engagements; Socialism, Trade Unionism and Anti-Militarism; expenses only. Write, John Blythe, 5 Culford Grove, Southgate Road, N.

BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION.—Ten lectures on "Women as Builders of Empire," by Miss Margaret Hodge, St. George's Vestry Hall, Hart Street, Bloomsbury, Tuesdays, beginning January 23rd, at 8 p.m. Tickets for the Course, 7s. 6d. (to members of Suffrage Societies, 5s.). Single tickets, 1s., from the International Suffrage Shop, 5 Duke St., Adelphi.

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